

May 21, 2023 Sunday Gathering

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-PRELUDE-"Joyful, Joyful" - arr. P. Keveren Brenda Gardiner

-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"I Dream of a Church" WE DREAM OF A CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME, WE DREAM OF A PLACE WE ALL CAN CALL HOME. WE DREAM OF A WORLD WHERE JUSTICE IS FLOWING WITH HOPE AND PEACE GROWING, WHERE GOD'S WILL IS DONE.

MAKE IT SO, MAKE IT SO! WE PRAY FOR THAT DAY, MAKE IT SO. WE DREAM OF A WORLD WHERE LOVE REIGNS AMONG US AND YOUR WILL IS DONE O GOD, MAKE IT SO.

-WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-"I Dream of a Church" O GOD, FILL OUR HEARTS TO REACH OUT IN WELCOME, MAKE US TO SEE YOUR VISION ONCE MORE. LET'S DREAM OF A WORLD WHERE OUR HANDS ARE YOUR HANDS, WE OFFER OURSELVES, O GOD, MAKE IT SO.

MAKE IT SO, MAKE IT SO! WE PRAY FOR THAT DAY, MAKE IT SO. WE DREAM OF A WORLD WHERE LOVE REIGNS AMONG US AND YOUR WILL IS DONE O GOD, MAKE IT SO.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-We believe we have been called TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH OUR COMMUNITY. We believe we have been called TO ENJOY THE BLESSINGS AROUND US, OUR RELATIONSHIPS, OUR STATION, AND OUR LIVES. We believe we have been called. TO BE THE CHURCH.

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU, GOD OF GLORY, GOD OF LOVE; HEARTS UNFOLD LIKE FLOWERS BEFORE YOU, OPENING TO THE SUN ABOVE. MELT THE CLOUDS OF SIN AND SADNESS, DRIVE THE STORMS OF DOUBT AWAY; GIVER OF IMMORTAL GLADNESS, FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY.

ALL YOUR WORKS WITH JOY SURROUND YOU, EARTH AND HEAVEN REFLECT YOUR RAYS, STARS AND ANGELS SING AROUND YOU, CENTER OF UNBROKEN PRAISE. FIELD AND FOREST, VALE AND MOUNTAIN, FLOWERY MEADOW, FLASHING SEA, CHANTING BIRD AND FLOWING FOUNTAIN, TEACH US WHAT OUR PRAISE SHOULD BE.

YOU ARE GIVING AND FORGIVING, EVER BLESSING, EVER BLESSED, WELLSPRING OF THE JOY OF LIVING, OCEAN DEPTH OF HAPPY REST! LOVING SPIRIT, LOVING PARENT, ALL WHO LOVE BELONG TO YOU; TEACH US HOW TO LOVE EACH OTHER, BY THAT LOVE OUR JOY RENEW.

MORTALS, JOIN THE MIGHTY CHORUS WHICH THE MORNING STARS BEGAN; BOUNDLESS LOVE IS REIGNING O'ER US, RECONCILING RACE AND CLAN. EVER SINGING, MOVE WE FORWARD, FAITHFUL IN THE MIDST OF STRIFE, JOYFUL MUSIC LEADS US ONWARD IN THE TRIUMPH SONG OF LIFE.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-"In the Quiet Curve of Evening" IN THE QUIET CURVE OF EVENING, IN THE CLOSING OF THE DAYS, IN THE MOMENTS OF MY DARKNESS, YOU ARE THERE. IN THE RHYTHMS OF MY BREATHING, IN THE SPACE BETWEEN MY WAYS, IN THE WEARY TIMES OF SADNESS, YOU ARE THERE.

-PASTORAL PRAYER-

-SCRIPTURE-Philippians 4: 4 (CEB) Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad!

-THE MESSAGE-

"LOL!" Kenny Bishop

-SINGING TOGETHER-"The Open Table" COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE. GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR. KNOWN BY NAME, HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE; WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

CIRCLE, 'ROUND, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER. SHARE YOUR JOYS, AND BRING YOUR TEARS. STRENGTH AND HOPE FOUND AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE; WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE; LOVE IS CREATING SOMETHING NEW, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. WE'RE CHILDREN OF GOD, HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE; WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

-COMMUNION-"Break Thou the Bread of Life" – arr. P. Hamm Brenda Gardiner

-OFFERING-"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" – J. S. Bach Brenda Gardiner

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-"Joy Unspeakable" I HAVE FOUND GOD'S GRACE IS ALL COMPLETE; IT SUPPLIES MY LONGING NEED. WHILE I SIT AND LEARN AT JESUS' FEET, I AM FREE, YES, FREE INDEED.

IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY. IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY; O THE HALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN TOLD!

I HAVE FOUND THE PLEASURE I ONCE CRAVED; IT IS JOY AND PEACE WITHIN. WHAT A WONDROUS BLESSING! I AM LOVED BY THE GOD WHO TOOK ME IN.

IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY. IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY; O THE HALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN TOLD!

I HAVE FOUND THAT HOPE SO BRIGHT AND CLEAR, LIVING IN THE REALM OF GRACE. I CAN FEEL THE LOVE OF GOD SO NEAR; I CAN SEE GOD'S WONDROUS FACE.

I HAVE FOUND THE JOY NO TONGUE CAN TELL, HOW ITS WAVES OF GLORY ROLL! IT IS LIKE A GREAT O'ERFLOWING WELL SPRINGING UP WITHIN MY SOUL.

IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY. IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY; O THE HALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN TOLD!

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-"Joy Unspeakable" IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY, FULL OF GLORY. IT IS JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY; O THE HALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN TOLD!